# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1710
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
PRICES OF AIDS DRUGS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

**Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the prohibitive prices of Anti-Retroviral (ARV) Drugs in India shaped mostly by the steep import duties, intermediaries and local taxes; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government for making AIDS drugs affordable?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) & (b): Anti-Retroviral Drugs used for AIDS treatment are non-Scheduled drugs under DPCO 95. As part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations in accordance with certain internal guidelines. A number of specified drugs including certain ARV/Anti-AIDS drugs are either fully exempt from custom duty or attract a concessional rate of custom duty. Similarly, certain ARV/Anti-AIDS drugs are also exempt from excise duty / Counter veiling duty.

Further in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy,2006, this Department has proposed certain measures in order to make available anti HIV/AIDS drugs at reasonable prices to a much larger section of population.